

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 01205 291116Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0951

INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DOHA 1205

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, QA, TS

SUBJ: VISIT OF TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER TO QATAR

REF: DOHA 0952

1. TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER HEDI NOUIRA ARRIVED IN QATAR OCT 25 FOR TWO DAY OFFICIAL VISIT. NOUIRA HEADED A 15 MEMBER DELEGATION WHICH INCLUDED MUSTAPHA ZANNOUNI, MINISTER OF PLANNING. VISIT, WHICH RECEIVED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN LOCAL PRESS, WAS RETURN OF AMIR'S TRIP TO TUNISIA IN JULY (REFTEL).

2. NOUIRA CONVEYED TO AMIR MESSAGE FROM TUNISIAN PRESIDENT HABIB BOURGUIBA WHICH, ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNT, CONTAINED USUAL SENTIMENTS ABOUT STRENGTHENING OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AND EXPRESSIONS OF GOOD WILL. ON MORE SUBSTANTIVE LEVEL, NEWSPAPER REPORTS STATED THAT MINISTER OF PLANNING ZANNOUNI SIGNED TWO AGREEMENTS. FIRST, WITH QATARI MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMY SHAYKH NASIR BIN KHALID AL THANI, PROVIDES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES THROUGH CREATION OF JOINT VENTURE COMPANIES AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN FIELDS OF COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF SPECIFIC AREAS ON WHICH PROPOSED COMPANIES WOULD FOCUS.

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PAGE 02 DOHA 01205 291116Z

3. SECOND AGREEMENT, SIGNED BY ZAAOUNI AND GOQ MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM SHAYKH ABUL AZIZ BIN KHALIFA AL THANI, PROVIDES FOR LONG TERM SOFT LOAN FROM QATAR TO TUNISIA. COMMENT: AS REPORTED REFTEL, AMIR APPROVED \$13 MILLION LOAN DURING JULY VISIT TO TUNISIA. AGREEMENT MERELY FINALIZES EARLIER DECISION.

4. IN ADDITION TO DESCRIPTION OF THE TWO AGREEMENT, JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT CONCLUSION OF NOUIRA'S VISIT CONTAINED STANDARD BOILER PLATE EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PLO AND RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS, AND BELIEF IN ARAB SOLIDARITY. COMMUNIQUE EMPHASIZED CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN TUNISIA AND QATAR AND BETWEEN GULF STATES AND NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN GENERAL. LEST ANYTHING BE LEFT OUT, COMMUNIQUE WENT ON TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND DEPLORE PRESENT SITUATION IN LEBANON.

5. ACCORDING PRESS, NOUIRA WENT ON TO UAE AND IRAQ AFTER STOP IN QATAR.
PAGANELLI

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Message Attributes

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